

Remarks

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 17 are in the case. Claims 5-6, 11-16 and 18-20 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Support for the amendments may be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Specification:

An objection to the specification has been raised due to non-compliance with sequence rules. The Action asserts that a series of figures on pages 4-5 are presented without specifying the corresponding sequence ID numbers.

As disclosed above, the paragraph titled "Brief Description of the Figures" bridging pages 4-5 has been amended to include corresponding sequence ID numbers. Applicants believe that the objection to the specification is now moot and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph:

Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Action alleges that claims 1(f) and 1(c) are unclear.

Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejection. Applicants do not accede to the Action's assertions, however merely to place the claims in better condition for allowance; claim 1 has been amended as described above.

Therefore, in light of the above comments and amendments, Applicants believe the grounds for rejection are now moot. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (enablement):

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Action asserts that the specification does not enable claims 1(f) and 10 (b).

Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejection. Applicants do not accede to the Action's assertions, however merely to place the claims in better condition for allowance; claim 1 and claim 10 have been amended as described above.

Therefore, in light of the above comments and amendments, Applicants believe the grounds for rejection are now moot. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (enablement), be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (written description):

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Action asserts that claims 1(f), 10(b) and 10(c) are not adequately described in the specification.

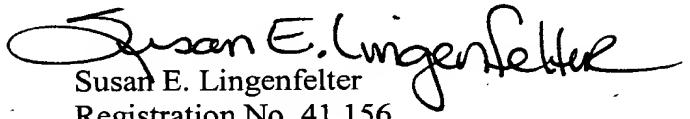
Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejection. Applicants do not accede to the Action's assertions, however merely to place the claims in better condition for allowance; claim 1 and claim 10 have been amended as described above.

Therefore, in light of the above comments and amendments, Applicants believe the grounds for rejection are now moot. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (written description), be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the presented claims are in condition for allowance. A favorable action is earnestly requested. Applicants' attorney invites the Examiner to call her at the number below if any issue remains outstanding.

Respectfully submitted,



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